

XVIII. *Description of a New Species of the anomalous genus Polyetenes.*

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(PLATE IX.)

I HAVE very much pleasure in bringing before the Society's notice a new species of the curious genus *Polyetenes*.

The species of this genus may be divided into two sections as follows :—

I. Posterior legs very long, as long as the whole insect, the claws to their tarsi nearly equal, with a small tooth at the base. American.

Type. *P. fumarius*.

II. Posterior legs comparatively short and thick, about half the length of the entire insect, having their claws unequal, one being nearly simple, the other large, bent, and as if divided into two by a deep incision. Old World.

Type. *P. molossus*.

To this second section belong my species, *P. lyre* and *P. spasmæ*. (T. Ent. Soc. 1879, pp. 11 and 12).

The species which I am now about to describe belongs to the first section, and is from Guatemala. I propose to call it—

*Polyetenes longiceps*.

Very close to *P. fumarius*, Giglioli and Westw. (*see* Westwood, 'Thesaurus,' pl. 38), but of a more elongate and narrow form, and rather more pitchy yellow colour. The character by which it may be most easily distinguished is the form of the head, which is distinctly longer than its greatest width, whereas in *P. fumarius* the head is broader than long. The ridges on the head are similar to those in *P. fumarius*, but the punctuation is stronger. The thorax and elytra agree with those of *fumarius* in general form, but are less short, and the

punctuation is more pronounced. The abdomen is rather closely and very strongly punctured.

Length 2 lines.

*Hab.*—Cajabon, Guatemala (F. C. Sarg).

Two specimens found by my colleague, Mr. Oldfield Thomas, on a bat, *Molossus abrasus*, Temminck.

The discovery of this species throws some light on the affinity of these insects, as I notice that in these fresh specimens the parts which in my former paper I called the dorsal plates of the mesothorax, as they did not seem to be separated from it, are distinctly separated, and appear quite like elytra. With the point of a fine needle I was quite able to lift them up at the apex, but they are soldered together at the suture. Under these circumstances my former opinion that these insects should be placed near the *Hippoboscidae* is, I think, quite proved to be incorrect; in which case Professor Westwood's view of their affinity with the *Hemiptera* seems to be the only alternative.

The tarsi in the species now described are four-jointed. *P. fumarius* has four joints, as has also one sex of *P. molossus*; the other sex of *P. molossus* is represented as having only three joints. I believe *P. lyræ* and *P. spasmæ* have four joints, but the apparent division between the 3rd and 4th joints is so obscure as to leave room for doubt on this point.

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